OPINION 661

CERASTES LAURENTI, 1768 (REPTILIA): DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers:

(a) all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Cerastes* Laurenti, 1768, made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and the nominal species *Coluber cerastes* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated to be the type-species of that genus;

(b) the generic name *Aspis* Laurenti, 1768, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The generic name *Cerastes* Laurenti, 1768 (gender: feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above, *Coluber cerastes* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name No. 1539.

(3) The specific name *cerastes* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Coluber cerastes* (type-species of *Cerastes* Laurenti, 1768) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name No. 1910.

(4) The generic name *Aspis* Laurenti, 1768 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name No. 1630.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 724)

The present case was submitted by Dr. Karl P. Schmidt, Dr. Clifford H. Pope and Mr. Arthur Loveridge in December 1952. An application was prepared which was sent to the printer on 8 December 1960 and published on 16 June 1961 in *Bull. zool Nomencl.* **18** : 170–171. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51–56) and to two herpetological serials. In the light of an objection received from Dr. L. B. Holthuis, Dr. Pope revised the proposals, the amendment being published in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **18** : 315, in the form of a note by Dr. W. E. China, Assistant Secretary to the Commission.

Comments were made by Professor Robert Mertens and Dr. Myra Keen (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **18** : 354), and by Professor Hobart M. Smith (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **19** : 87). A further comment by Professor Mertens and Dr. Konrad Klemmer (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **19** : 87) again amended the proposals to be placed before the Commission. The cause of the objection made by Dr. Myra Keen was removed by Dr. Pope's change in his proposals.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

On 31 May 1962 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (62)17 either for or against the proposals set out on pages 171 and 315 of volume 18 and page 87 of volume 19 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. At the close of the prescribed Voting Period on 31 August 1962 the state of the voting was as follows :

Affirmative Votes—twenty-four (24), received in the following order : Hering, China, Boschma, Binder, Holthuis, Mayr, Riley, Vokes, Lemche, do Amaral, Munroe, Stoll, Bonnet, Brinck, Alvarado, Key, Uchida, Borchsenius, Obruchev, Tortonese, Hemming, Jaczweski, Mertens, Kühnelt.

Negative Votes—none (0).

On Leave of Absence—one (1) : Prantl.

Voting Papers not returned—two (2) : Evans, Poll.

Commissioners Bradley and Miller returned late affirmative votes.

Original References

The following are the original references for names placed on the Official Lists and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion :

Aspis Laurenti, 1768, *Specimen Medicum :* 105

Cerastes Laurenti, 1768, *Specimen Medicum :* 81

cerastes, Coluber, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 217

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (62)17 were cast as set out above, that the proposal set out in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 661.

W. E. CHINA
Acting Secretary
International Commission on
Zoological Nomenclature
London
13 *September* 1962